17: Banerjee K-5 (1955) 1962 AR? Khasi AR?
Small

objects are stored while that of the west (*Lyngwan Mawg*) was meant exclusively for sacrificial goats. There is a very big circular courtyard in front of the building where the members of the royal family as also other boys and spectators hold a ritual dance. The function is always held during the month[s] period of May or June and the actual dates are fixed in consultation with the Chief priest (*Lakhlan*) in such a way that the first day—*Pomlah*[9] always coincides with the market day of Shillong Chota Bazar. The dates of the festival is then communicated to the in-charge of different units of his territory, through a wooden stick '*Lyrwah*' having a few knots of cane-strips, as a form of summons for attending the festival for five days at Smit along with subjects under their jurisdiction.

Important Functionary

The responsibility of performing this ritual rests on the High-priestess (*Ka Siem Sad*) who is succeeded by her eldest daughter. Different ritual objects are procured by her, well in advance and it is obligatory on her part to join the communal dancing, in which her daughter may also officiate on her behalf. U Shillong is worshipped by the chief priest while the other assistants are assisted by lesser priests. The musicians (*Dhaiki*) besides their normal duties, take part in the worship of the ancestors and they are presented with silk turban, jacket, cloth, by the ruling family for the services rendered during the festival. The *Siem* has no special role except to supervise and evoke U Shillong for the welfare of the community. He is required to perform certain sacrifices, failing which his heir-apparent (*Siem Lyngdoh*) does the same. He along with his aunts (High priestess) abstain from taking rice during the period of celebration presumably to observe the sanctity of this festival as also to ensure the successful conclusion of the function.

Sacrificial Materials

The festival derives its name from the sacrifice of a large number of goats some of which were supplied from the Siem fund and from different units of the territory. Formerly at least fifty goats were required and each unit had a specific allotment but owing to the economic difficulty that the Khasis are experiencing, the number of goats sacrificed hardly exceeds twenty-five. The goats collected from the different units, are presented to the Chief on the midnight of the third day. Rice-beer, dried fish, fermented rice, betel leaves together with nuts are also important ritual objects in this celebration.

Commencement of the Festival

The commencement of the festival was marked by the distribution of dried fish (*Iaid Iasiej*) to the persons assembled on the occasion, in the evening of [illegible] by the Chief priest over the five pieces of covered bell known as *Ka sukdar shar*

[illegible] such meetings of eight days in Khasi. Calculate the names are according to this pla[illegible] where numbers are here 1 Khasi 1 Shillo[illegible]

Khasi	Shillong
1. Pomlah	Shillong Chota Bazar.
2. Thei	Thangkhiah
3. Iaw-kut	Shillong Police Bazar.
4. Lyngkha	Mawpdeh.
5. Khatarah	Laitkynsew.
6. Mawlong	Laban (Shillong).
7. Mawlyngkot	Mawlyngkot Police Bazaar.
8. Mylliem	Ladlyngkot.